Wanderer's Ace

by Jacqui

#14. Wanderer's Ace

Do not upload my projects to online manga readers.
My projects must remain free of profits.
Do not upload to Mangahere, Mangatown, MangaFox,
MangaPark, Mangafox, and so on.... (You get the gist)
surasplace.com

Y-a...

For people like us, there aren't a lot of choices.

An elite.

Also a good student.

Good grades.

Then...

There are pretty much all people like us can brag about.

Of course, none of which was what we truly wanted.

The matter-of-fact is that, even if people like us are given a new life to live...

We will probably go through the same cycles, once more.

But the sky

Is so vast and deep...

So narrow and dark.

We cannot see anything else. Therefore, we are left with no choice but to walk on this lone path.

However it does, however

It's the only way it is.

Because, at least,

As long as we stand on this path,

We won't feel insecure.

There's nothing to be afraid of as long as we think this is the only way, this is the correct way.

!

It was at that time...

When I saw kids who were walking outside of the path...

They...

Their smiles were real. They meant it.

Their smiles were so bright then!

It blew away the darkness

That had surrounded me, for pretty much all my life.

Whereas our futures look...

The brightest world I was so sure.

And it was barren: there was nothing.

There was no path.

If I set for a sweet place

That had no end...

At that moment, I felt completely lost. I had no idea where I should have walked.

I became lost.

There was no place I could move as well.

But they, those who were smiling brightly,

Were walking off somewhere.

Without any sort of hesitation

They walked off somewhere.

Why...Why? Why?

Because I was afraid of the concept of finding myself truly alone.

And I was more afraid of wasting my own desires.

In the end, I fell on the spot.

And once again

I closed my eyes.

I didn't need to hesitate where there was only the path.

I didn't have to feel insecure.

To me, this was all I had.

So I chose to resume walking.

That was what I decided.

HOWEVER...

EVEN PEOPLE LIKE US

PEOPLE LIKE US WHO ARE LOST...

IF THERE IS A CHANCE FOR PEOPLE LIKE US TO SHINE...!!

STAGGER...

GRAB...

BECOMING #1...

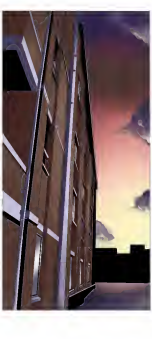
GETTING PRAISED.

AND GETTING OTHER PEOPLE'S ATTENTION...

...THAT IS WHEN WE SHINE.

BECAUSE...

WE CANNOT SHINE ON OUR OWN.



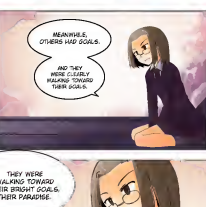
!
I THOUGHT I WAS DOING MY BEST...

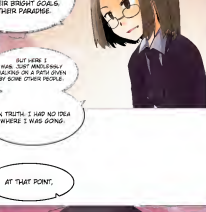
AND THEN I REALIZED I HAD NO FRIGGING IDEA WHERE THE HELL I WAS GOING.
HOW PAINFUL IT WAS.

AND THEN YOU LOOK AROUND AND SEE...

A GIRL WHO WAS INTO DRAWING COMICS.
A GUY WHO WAS STUDYING BECAUSE HE WANTED TO BECOME A DIPLOMAT.
ANOTHER GUY WHO WANTED TO WRITE PROFESSIONAL NOVELS.
AND SOME DUDES WHO WERE INTO MAKING STUPID ROBOTS...

I LOOKED AT THEM,
AND I LOOKED AT THEIR PATHS.
AND THEN I REALIZED,


ALL I HAD BEEN DOING WAS...
JUST STUDYING...
AND I WAS GOOD AT IT. THAT WAS ALL.

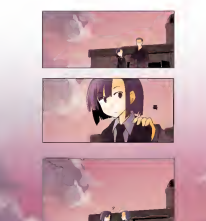

MEANWHILE, OTHERS HAD GOALS.
AND THEY WERE CLEARLY WALKING TOWARD THEIR GOALS.

THEY WERE WALKING TOWARD THEIR BRIGHT GOALS. THEIR PARADISE.
BUT HERE I WAS, JUST MINDLESSLY WALKING ON A PATH DRAWN BY SOME OTHER PEOPLE.
IN TRUTH, I HAD NO IDEA WHERE I WAS GOING.

AT THAT POINT,
....
I FELT TOO INSECURE.

...HUH...
THAT BITCH IS STILL ALIVE.
I'M TOUGHER THAN YOU THINK.
Screw

...


BY THE WAY... YOU KNOW...
IT'S THE SAME FOR EVERYONE.
NOBODY CAN CLEARLY PAVE THEIR GOALS AND TWISTS...
AND THEN PLAN AHEAD...
AND WALK TOWARD THEIR GOALS FROM THE GET-GO.

FOR EXAMPLE, PEOPLE LIKE US...
WE WENT AFTER PRAISES, THE #1 TAG, THE ELITE TAG...
WE CHASED THOSE,
AND HAVE COME THIS FAR.
EVERYONE IS THE SAME.

JUST LIKE HOW WE CHASED AFTER SUCH SMALL THINGS,
AND HAVE LEFT OUR FOOTSTEPS,
EVERYONE WAS ALSO AFTER SUCH SMALL THINGS THAT MATTERED TO THEM.

SMALL CURIOSITY.

GETTING INTERESTED IN WHAT OTHERS WERE INTO.

BEING MOVED BY SOMETHING.
HAVING RESPECT TOWARDS SOMEONE.

OR SELF-SATISFACTION.

OR EVEN COMPETITIVE SPIRIT...
Demon's Cross
Demon's Cross
THEY WERE ABLE TO FIND THEIR WAY SOMEHOW.
BUT WE...
I...
COULD NOT.
BECAUSE I WAS SIMPLY CHASING A SHADOW.
IN SUCH A CONDEMNABLE PLACE...
WILL I BE ABLE TO DO IT?
AT THIS POINT, I FIGURED MY OWN FATE
.....
OF COURSE.
...!
IT MAY BE VAST. IT MAY BE SADDEN..
BUT THERE ARE MORE FOR YOU AND OTHERS TO FOLLOW.
AND THEN YOU GET TO THANK
ABOUT WHERE YOU WERE GOING.
AND WHERE YOU SHOULD BE GOING...
....
JUST LIKE
US RIGHT HERE.
THOSE ARE
FOOTSTEPS..
OUR OWN FOOTSTEPS.
IT IS POOR OF OUR TIME AND EXISTENCE
BY COINCIDENCE OR... FATE.
ITS OWN FLOWERS WILL BE A PART OF YOU.
AND IT WILL MATURE EVEN FURTHER
ITS SOME-THING AND ITS OWN WITH OUR HANDS.
IT WILL CONTINUE TO GROW.
YOUR OWN SKILL OR ABILITY... ONCE MATURED, IT WILL BLOSSOM.
SOMETHING WILL EVENTUALLY GROW FROM IT..
I JUST WANT TO SEE THE VAST HORIZON.
THE MOMENT ALL COME FOR ALL OF US.
WE ALL WALKED MINDLESSLY IN THE BEGINNING LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SUCH
AS THE NOVEL
AND THE ENDING
BUT WE...
I...
COULD NOT.
BECAUSE I WAS SIMPLY CHASING A SHADOW.
IN SUCH A CONDEMNABLE PLACE...
WILL I BE ABLE TO DO IT?
AT THIS POINT, I FIGURED MY OWN FATE
.....
OF COURSE.
...!
IT MAY BE VAST. IT MAY BE SADDEN..
BUT THERE ARE MORE FOR YOU AND OTHERS TO FOLLOW.
AND THEN YOU GET TO THANK
ABOUT WHERE YOU WERE GOING.
AND WHERE YOU SHOULD BE GOING...
....
JUST LIKE
US RIGHT HERE.
THOSE ARE
FOOTSTEPS..
OUR OWN FOOTSTEPS..
IT IS POOR OF OUR TIME AND EXISTENCE
BY COINCIDENCE OR... FATE.
ITS OWN FLOWERS WILL BE A PART OF YOU.
AND IT WILL MATURE EVEN FURTHER
ITS SOME-THING AND ITS OWN WITH OUR HANDS.
IT WILL CONTINUE TO GROW.
YOUR OWN SKILL OR ABILITY... ONCE MATURED, IT WILL BLOSSOM.
SOMETHING WILL EVENTUALLY GROW FROM IT..
I JUST WANT TO SEE THE VAST HORIZON.
THE MOMENT ALL COME FOR ALL OF US.
WE ALL WALKED MINDLESSLY IN THE BEGINNING LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SUCH
AS THE NOVEL
AND THE ENDING
STUDY... PRACTICE... AND ITS RESULTS.
ALONG WITH THE EMOTIONS AND MEMORIES.
I STILL CAN'T LOSE BOOKS NOR HAVE TO GO TROUBLE
OLDS SWEAT AND TEARS... BECAUSE IT WAS SO HARD...
YOU MAY HAVE CHASED A SHADOW, BUT YOUR STORIES WERE REAL.
AND THOSE ARE LEFT IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS.
GOMETHING WILL EVENTUALLY GROW FROM IT..
I'LL CONTINUE TO GROW.
YOUR OWN SKILL OR ABILITY... ONCE MATURED, IT WILL BLOSSOM.
ITS OWN FLOWERS WILL BE A PART OF YOU.
AND IT WILL MATURE EVEN FURTHER
BY COINCIDENCE OR... FATE.